(d) whether several coal mines of CIL are lying abandoned; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to explore possibilities of digging coal from those mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Within the command area of the Coal India Limited (CIL) in the country. Central Mine Planning and Design Institute is taking up exploration of unproved coal deposits in CIL, Non-CIL captive and other blocks. In 2009-10, a total of 3.60 lakh meters of exploratory drilling has been programmed through departmental resources (2.10 lakh m) and outsourcing (1.50 lakh m). Out of 3.60 lakh m of exploratory drilling, 2.31 lakh m is targeted in CIL blocks, 1.17 lakh m in non-CIL/Captive mining blocks and 0.12 lakh m in promotional (regional) exploration blocks.

(c) As per the latest inventory of geological resources of coal in India, prepared by Geological Survey of India (GSI), a cumulative total of 267.21 billion tonnes (bt) of geological resources of coal (105.82 bt in 'proved category', 123.470 bt in 'indicated category' and 37.920 bt in 'inferred category') have so far been estimated in the country as on 1.4.2009.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A global Expression of Interest (EOI) was floated by CIL for 18 abandoned/derelict underground coalmines of CIL for salvaging, rehabilitation and operation through Joint Venture. 14 companies participated in this global EOI out of which 10 companies have been shortlisted. A general Bid document for selection of joint venture partner has been prepared.

Import of coal

1845. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has faced coal shortage in many power projects;

(b) if so, to what extent the country has so far been able to import coal from Australia and other countries where prices have fallen to the lowest level; and

(c) whether JSW Energy has started talks to source coal from Indonesia and South Africa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has estimated that as against the total coal requirement of 404 million tonnes required by power utilities during 2009-10, the indigenous availability would be about 363 million tonnes. Therefore, Ministry of Power has advised the power utilities to import 28.70 million tonnes which is equivalent to about 41 million tonnes of indigenous coal, during 2009-10 to bridge the gap between demand and indigenous availability.

(b) Import of coal is under Open General Licence (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal. During the year 2007-08 and 2008-09, various consumers including consumers from power sector have imported coal from Australia, Indonesia etc. to the tune of 49.79 million tonnes and 59.00 million tonnes respectively.

(c) Information is not available with this Ministry.

Irregularities in coal mines of WCL

1846. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a large scale of bullying and irregularities take place in the contract to be given in the coal mines of Western Coalfields Limited;

(b) whether such irregularities have been brought to Government's notice by the officers concerned and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the private players who have been given the contract of coal during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) As informed by Coal India Limited, no complaint of large scale bullying and irregularities has been received in the Vigilance Department of Western Coalfields Limited.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

CCI's awareness campaign on procurement process

1847. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has observed that many Government departments and public sector companies are losing thousands of crores of public money while procuring goods due to faulty bidding system;

(b) whether CCI has launched an awareness campaign on the Competition Law among the Government agencies like NHAI, CPWD, AIIMS and BSNL to ensure better transparency in the procurement process; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to review and revive the procurement system in consultation with CCI and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Competition Commission of India (CCI) has launched an awareness campaign as part of its advocacy efforts under Section 49(3) of the Competition Act, 2002, to create awareness about the competition issues to all stakeholders including Government Departments and Public Sector Companies.